

State Of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

May 11, 1983, was a fine, spring day at Lake Dudley in Spink County. As small children will, Leslie, 4, and Julie, 3, were playing in a car that was parked on the boat ramp when it was knocked out of gear and rolled into the water with the two girls trapped inside. Nobody at the scene knew how to swim, so they went looking for help.

Roger Overacker was driving his semiload of fertilizer to a farm just two miles from Lake Dudley when a woman flagged him down and asked for his help. Roger did not hesitate. They could see the tip of the CB antenna sticking out of the water fifty feet from shore. He immediately dove in and swam to the car. Three of the four doors were locked, and Roger had to make repeated dives before he could find one that opened. Finally, he was able to open the door and help the two young girls to the surface. Fortunately, an air pocket in the car had kept the girls alive during the ten minutes before their rescue.

The greatest acts of bravery involve both mental poise and physical courage. Roger's quick thinking and strong swimming skills proved to be the crucial difference between life and death for two young children. His life-saving endeavor on that spring day sets an example for all South Dakotans to respect and emulate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the valor of

ROGER OVERACKER

and I join Roger's family and friends in saluting him for his selfless courage and valor in that life and death emergency.



ATTEST:

Alice Kundert
ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

BY

Jay D. Vogt
JAY D. VOGT, DEPUTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Third Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Three

William J. Janklow
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

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